indicate the purpose of withdrawal and use the amount for the specified purpose only. There is ho provision under the Rules for making withdrawals for investing the money in various deposit Schemes floated by the private and public sector enterprises.

(c) to (e) The 5th Pay Commission has recommended payment of interest @ 13% per annum as against the present level of 12%. At present there is no proposal to offer incentives to employees to keep balances in their Provident Fund Account.

**Package of Measures for Capital Market**

321. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment have announced a package of measures for the capital market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether necessary safeguard measures have been taken to ensure that India's foreign debt remained within manageable limit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Certain measures were taken recently for the further development of the capital market. These, *inter-alia,* relate to the promulgation of the Depositories Related Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997, approval of a scheme of lending of securities and adoption by the Board of SEBI of the Bhagwati Committee Report on substantial acquisition of shares and takeovers.

(c) and (d) The debt management strategy being followed by the Govemment contains necessary safeguards for ensuring that India's foreign debt remains within manageable limits. Some of the important features of the strategy relate to sustaining a high growth rate of exports, encouraging non-debt creating capital inflows and keeping the maturity structure as well as the total amount of commercial debt under control.

**Procedure to Monitor Fiscal Deficit**

322. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there exists a procedure which enable Govemment to monitor the fiscal deficit quarterly;

(b) if so, details of the existing procedure;

(c) how far the fiscal deficit deviated from the estimated during 1996-97 (April to December, 1996)

(d) the factors responsible for increase in the fiscal deficit; and

(e) what stringent steps are being taken to contain fiscal deficit at 4 percent of the GDP?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The fiscal deficit is being monitored on monthly basis. The actual (provisional) upto Dec.'96 was Rs. 41344 crore against BE 1996-97 projection of Rs. 62266 crore. The figure upto Dec. '96 works out to 66% of BE 1996-97 which is less than proportionate.

(c) The fiscal deficit of Rs. 62266 crores in BE 1996-97 works out to *5%* of GDP. The variations if any in the current financial year will be indicated in this forthcoming budget.

**Foreign Banks in India**

323. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the foreign banks allowed entry in India since the initiation of liberalisation of economy from mid-1991; and

(b) the total amount of profits they have been repatriating in foreign exchange during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) the following foreign banks have been allowed entry in India since initiation of liberalisation of economy from mid 1991:—

| SI N | Name of the Bank | Country |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | JNG Bank NV | Netherlands |
| 2. | Chase Manhattan Bank | U.S.A. |
| 3. | State Bank of Mauritius | Mauritius |
| 4. | Development Bank of Singapore Ltd. | Singapore |
| 5. | Dresdner Bank AG | Germany |